

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiners for the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative during the personal interview on November 20, 2008. In accordance with the matters discussed during that personal interview, Applicant amends the independent claim 1 to further clarify the scope of the claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in Figure 1 of Applicant's application in view of Apprich (U.S. 6,216,393), claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA, Apprich and Carlsson et al. (U.S. 6,792,717; hereafter "Carlsson"), and claims 2 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA, in view of Apprich and Cheng (U.S. 3,841,024). Applicant traverse the rejections because the cited prior art, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in combination in the rejected claims.

As agreed to during the personal interview, Applicants submit that the amended claims overcome the prior art rejections because the cited prior art, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are allowable over the cited prior art.

For all of the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested. In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 371-6371 so that resolution can be promptly effected.

It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. **02-1010 (566-43618)**.

Respectfully submitted,

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